

Brian Amme, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 12000
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December 31, 2005


Dear Mr. Amme,

- 1 Please, please reconsider your plans to spray hundreds of thousands of acres of open land in 17 western states for weeds. The idea appears useful until one takes into account the dangers of chemicals, something which we in the United States are not used to doing.
- 2 How is it that we Americans have little awareness of the effects of chemical toxicity? Indeed, how is it that we do not realize immediately that a plan to kill weeds will work to our detriment?
- 3 The rest of the world seems to be outpacing us in the area of awareness. Canada has already banned the use of pesticides and herbicides in over 70 cities and towns because the serious consequences of their use are known to the general population. Japan is witnessing a race between automobile manufacturers to eliminate the smell in new cars as it is known that the outgassing of toxic substances in cars poses a threat to the health of purchasers. Europeans are dealing with chemicals in a program called REACH, whereby manufacturers are required to prove safety BEFORE chemicals are permitted on the market.
- 4 And then there is the U.S., where the situation works in reverse: we have allowed some 80,000+ chemicals to come into current use with virtually no information as to their safety. Chemicals that are suspected of causing health impairment must be proven to have created problems before they are restricted or removed from the market.
- 5 When a hospital like Columbia-Presbyterian in New York (the one in which former President Clinton's heart surgery was performed) announces that, in their opinion, 95% of cancer is environmentally induced, do we pay attention? No, not yet. We're not at all tuned to that kind of message. Do we recognize that a whole host of neurodegenerative and autoimmune diseases can be linked directly to chemical toxicity? Certainly not. Not yet.
- 6 But the day is coming. We are proving that chemicals are harmful the hard way.

Chemicals that are sprayed aerially to kill weeds will not only enter our air but will affect our water, soil, and food supply and the effects will be felt nationwide.

Please DO NOT SPRAY. Adopt Alternative C.

Very sincerely,


Beverly Pape

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